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Conversation Contents

press release

"Davis, Landon" <landon_davis@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Davis, Landon" <landon_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Jul 26 2017 13:28:21 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: jbstic@wvcoal.com
CC: Heather Swift <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: press release

Jason: can you get us a quote from you guys and Austin ASAP? Thanks!

Interior Secretary Zinke Applauds Mine Proposal to

Create Jobs in Virginia and West Virginia

(WASHINGTON) Today U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke applauded the initial construction of the Berwind Mine located on the border of West Virginia and Virginia. Developers expect the mine to create 50 good-paying local jobs. The Berwind Coal Reserve is estimated to contain about 72 million tons of clean recoverable metallurgical coal, which is critical for infrastructure and is used for steel, roads, bridges, and building construction. The Berwind Mine will produce about 800,000 tons per year and will create jobs in some of the hardest-hit areas of Appalachian region including McDowell County, West Virginia as well as Buchanan and Tazewell Counties in Virginia.

Although the mine is on private land, the Department of the Interior had a role in approving wildlife protection plans for the Big Sandy crayfish in conjunction with the State of West Virginia's Department of Environmental Protection. There are currently about a dozen pending projects that require USFWS coordination in the region.

"Appalachia's coal workers are at the heart of rebuilding our nation's infrastructure because we can't build if we don't access our natural resources," **said Secretary Ryan Zinke**. "Under President Trump's leadership, the Department of the Interior is dedicated to being a good partner with local communities. This administration is dedicated to streamlining permitting and approval processes, cutting red tape, and empowering local employees to get work done on the front lines -without cutting corners on environmental requirements. The Berwind Mine is the first of many many projects that prove the Trump Administration's commitment to coal country and to good government."

QUOTE Ramaco

The mine developers submitting their application for permit in the summer of 2016; however, due to complications with the wildlife management plans for two species of crayfish, the permitting process stalled. On June XX, 2017, Interior officials visited West Virginia to meet with the private and government stakeholders. The group was able to develop a plan to protect the crayfish and go forward with the mine. On June 26, the project was approved by the West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection and on July 5, initial construction began on the new mine. Since the June meeting with Interior officials and the WVDEP, official guidance was issued by the USFWS field office which will help

ensure timely approval of the pending projects.

"On behalf of Secretary Zinke, it was a pleasure to meet the folks in West Virginia involved in this project and work together to resolves the issues for immediate progress," **said Vincent DeVito, counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy.** "This Administration's commonsense approach to reasonable regulations enables us to deliver results."

QUOTE WV Coal Association

"The expansion of the Berwind mine will create 50 well-paying jobs, and is a perfect example of what we can achieve when government works as a partner not an adversary," **Senator Manchin said.** "It is good news for McDowell County and all of West Virginia. We know that coal will be in the energy mix for decades to come and I'm encouraged by the work of Secretary Zinke and the Fish and Wildlife Service in ensuring this project moves forward. This mine will produce 800,000 tons of clean recoverable metallurgical coal annually that will help rebuild our roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure. This mine is a key ingredient to powering our country's infrastructure restoration. I look forward to hearing about Berwind mine's positive impact on McDowell County, I applaud this decision, and I will continue to fight for economic growth throughout our great state."

QUOTE SEN CAPITO

"I welcome the expansion of the Berwind mine, which extends into Buchanan and Tazewell Counties," **said Virginia Congressman Morgan Griffith.** "Miners, other workers at the mine, and employees of mining supply companies will be put to work and be able to spend money in their communities. Localities will receive the appropriate coal severance taxes, which will help support their schools. Thus, Southwest Virginia will benefit from this move."

"Finally, after eight years of anti-coal policies, coal is beginning to see a rebound," said **West Virginia Congressman David B. McKinley, P.E., chairman of the Congressional Coal Caucus.** "From increased exports to new mines opening, we're seeing positive developments in coal country. The Trump Administration is committed to bringing coal jobs back, and we look forward to working together to do just that."

QUOTE WV Secretary of DEP Austin Capron

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Tucker Davis
Department of the Interior
202.706.9403

"Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>

From: "Swift, Heather" <heather_swift@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wed Jul 26 2017 13:52:56 GMT-0600 (MDT)
To: "Davis, Landon" <landon_davis@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: press release

tucker i still need the date of your meeting.

-

Heather Swift
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On Wed, Jul 26, 2017 at 3:28 PM, Davis, Landon <landon_davis@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

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